**MFC Foundation’s Warm Spaces Supporting Programme**

**Information and Guidelines**

**MFC Foundation Introduction**

MFC Foundation (MFCF) is the independent charity of Middlesbrough Football Club (MFC), established in 1996, we use the power of the MFC brand to engage with the community to provide opportunities for disadvantaged communities to maximise their potential to achieve. MFCF are committed to safeguarding, welfare and inclusion as part of our core themes of delivery: Education, Employability, Health and Wellbeing, Social Inclusion and Sports Participation.

**What is the Warm Spaces Supporting Programme?**

The Warm Spaces Supporting Programme is a collaborative approach programme led by MFC Foundation to deliver a sustainable and diverse activity programme across South Tees. The programme aims to tackle issues with accessibility caused by the cost-of-living crisis by providing grant funding and programme support to organisations. The activities will focus on providing a physical activity and access to a warm space whilst aiming to support participants with issues relating to the cost of living.

**What is MFC Foundation’s role in the partnership?**

MFC Foundation aim to track current activity of warm spaces across South Tees and develop an understanding of the need for physical activity within these spaces. MFC Foundation are responsible for supplying organisations with a suitable application process and then supporting and reviewing this in a transparent manner. Further support for the beneficiaries includes support around planning; monitoring and evaluating; as well as access to a steering group of partner organisations delivering the programme. We will also provide training within our areas of expertise, where applicable and highlighted by the beneficiaries.

**Application Process**

Following every expression of interest, organisations will be invited to complete an application form for each delivery venue and individual activity programme. MFC Foundation aim to support you through your application process, encouraging you to provide relevant information on your planned delivery. Each application will then be reviewed by a panel of interested parties, where a decision will either be fully approved, partially approved, deferred (more information required), or declined.

**Guidelines for your application and delivery**

The delivery partners will be chosen to complement and add value to the current work across South Tees, with access to a network of Warm Spaces Support partners, and therefore it is required that the location of the delivery venue must be in the top 20% IMD in South Tees. You will be responsible for highlighting the need of the activity in your chosen area, including the economic benefits of delivery. We support a collaborative approach to build the programme, with services more joined up and responsive to local needs. Delivery partners are required to develop relationships between other partner organisations, building capacity within organisations and building sustainable offers within the community.

We recommend that you engage with the target audience prior to your proposed activity to give them an opportunity to provide an insight. Finally, it would be beneficial to consider the following principles (outlined on the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Social Value Charter); employ local, buy local, think local, good employers, and a great place to live. MFC Foundation aim to support this process through partnerships and the opportunity of a working and steering group.

It is essential to include the facilitation of a physical activity (not necessarily in the warm space) and an activity within a warm space (this does not need to be physical). As well as these activities, the service would be more appealing to include additional opportunities such as educational workshops on relevant topics such as mental health, employability, financial support etc.

**Delivery Period(s)**

The delivery period must be a minimum of three months and maximum of 26 weeks for each funding application. Two week funding windows are open at strategic times of the year for organisations to submit their application. Email [neil.dooley@mfcfoundation.co.uk](mailto:neil.dooley@mfcfoundation.co.uk) to find out the dates of the next funding window.

**Release of Grants to Organisations**

Once an application is deemed successful, an invoice request form will be sent to the organisation and must be fully completed and returned to [neil.dooley@mfcfoundation.co.uk](mailto:neil.dooley@mfcfoundation.co.uk) by the 15th of the month in order to receive payment by the end of said month.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

All successful applicants are required to monitor their programme so that MFC Foundation can measure the impact on the following Sport England (SE) and YGT outcomes:

* Improve economic development through reducing (and where possible remove) the stigma around warm spaces and poverty
* Increase individual development
* Improve wellbeing (physical and mental)
* Increase social and community development

Each grant period should be monitored and evaluated as a standalone and not aggregated. The full extent of the data collection process will be outlined within a service level agreement, once funding has been approved.

**Required Outcomes:**

You will be expected to work towards the following five key areas through your programme.

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| 1. Supporting the most deprived people in the South Tees community: (“we know that 50% of wards in Middlesbrough local authority and 60% of wards in Redcar and Cleveland are within the top 20% IMD (index of multiple deprivation). | |
|  | * Engaging with participants in need of a warm space to help them with the cost-of-living crisis * Participants accessing the programme who are living in South Tees, within the top 20% areas on IMD * Participants accessing the programme who are living within the ward where the activity is delivered in * Your activity is delivered within South Tees, in a ward of deprivation where the people within this ward require support with the cost-of-living crisis |
| 1. Developing participants health and wellbeing: | |
|  | * Participants reporting improved positive attitudes towards physical activity * Participants reporting improved mental wellbeing (general) * Participants reporting improved feelings of social connectedness * Participants reporting improved physical health/wellbeing |
| 1. Striving for sustainability: | |
|  | Considerations for striving for sustainability:   * Social Action project to make the activity more accessible * Fundraising activity to raise funds to cover the costs of the activity * Introducing a reasonable charge onto the sessions |
| 1. Considerations towards providing additional opportunities | |
|  | * Participation in educational workshops such as mental health, employability, EDI etc. * Guest speakers including other organisations providing information, advice or guidance on topics such as mental health, physical activity, employability, EDI etc. * Signposting into other organisations that provide benefits for mental and physical wellbeing. |
| 1. Develop partnerships across South Tees through shared facilities and resources: | |
|  | Working with partner organisations within South Tees for example:   * Use of a warm space facility in South Tees * Use of staff or volunteers from an organisation within South Tees * Attendance at MFC Foundation Warm Spaces Support Programme network meetings * Successful referrals into other Warm Spaces Support Programmes and South Tees physical activity organisations where appropriate |